

SALACIA, ZANDER

CONTROL ROOM CHAMBER

(Dilapidated and damaged machinery is projected on the cyc. ZANDER and SALACIA enter)

SALACIA

This is our control center. As you can see, it is of little use anymore. Our scientists sabotaged everything when they knew their rebellion was lost. Everyone who would have known how to fix it was executed.

ZANDER

I would love the study it in depth, but I suspect it would take years to figure all this out.

SALACIA

There's nothing you can do to help?

ZANDER

Not without a lot more time, but we have to take off within two days to make our launch window, otherwise we'll be stuck here for a year. Which I wouldn't mind, to be honest. I'd love the chance to study your culture in depth, learn your customs.

SALACIA

Our customs? Yes. And I long to go to Earth, to co-exist with your people.

ZANDER

You'd fit right in.

SALACIA

Do you really think so?

ZANDER

Absolutely. Maybe just a change of wardrobe.

SALACIA

Humans would all think I was one of them?

ZANDER

Yes. And when you come to Earth, we'll have to write a book together.

SALACIA

A book?

ZANDER

Yes, a book. Don't you have books? A written account of our experiences. We could tell it from both sides. Our journey from Earth, and your story, the history of your people. We'd probably win a Pulitzer.

SALACIA

I have a thought. Perhaps you could stay here until a rescue rocket arrives, and one of us could go in your place. Think of all the time you would then have to study our culture.

ZANDER

I don't think that would work.

SALACIA

So you won't take us to Earth?

ZANDER

No, we will, but not this trip. The added weight would burn too much extra fuel. We barely have enough to make it as it is.

SALACIA

I see. How much do you weigh?

ZANDER

What?

SALACIA

Can they fly the spacecraft without you?

ZANDER

Yes, but --

SALACIA

How long did you say it would take another rocket to get here?

ZANDER

Maybe two years.

SALACIA

Too long.

(She takes out a dagger and slashes ZANDER's throat. He clutches his throat and gags)

SALACIA (CONT'D)

I've grown impatient with age. And thirstier.

(She feeds on ZANDER.  
Blackout)